

AUGUST 6, 1976

NEW UNITED STATES STAMP HONORS NURSE

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS, WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR EVEN BALLS OF STRING. HERE'S THIS WEEK'S REPORT, PREPARED BY GEORGE MISHLER.

VOICE: THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WILL ISSUE A 13 CENT COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO HONOR CLARA MAASS, THE NURSE WHO GAVE HER LIFE DURING YELLOW FEVER RESEARCH IN CUBA.

CLARA MAASS WAS BORN ON JUNE 28, 1876 IN EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, NEAR BELLEVILLE, WHERE THE STAMP WILL BE ISSUED. MISS MAASS GRADUATED FROM THE NEWARK GERMAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AND BECAME A HEAD NURSE THERE. WHEN THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR BROKE OUT SHE VOLUNTEERED TO BECOME A CONTRACT NURSE FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY. SHE WAS DISCHARGED AFTER SERVICE AT ARMY CAMPS IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA AND IN SANTIAGO, CUBA. SHE VOLUNTEERED AGAIN SO THAT SHE MIGHT CONTINUE WORK ON RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES OF YELLOW FEVER. SHE THEN RETURNED TO CUBA TO WORK WITH MAJOR WALTER REED AND MAJOR WILLIAM GORGAS, THE ARMY SANITATION OFFICERS, WHO WOULD CONTROL YELLOW FEVER AND MAKE POSSIBLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

ASSIGNED TO LAS ANIMAS HOSPITAL IN HAVANA, SHE VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE PART IN EXPERIMENTS TO PROVE THAT A PARTICULAR TYPE OF MOSQUITO WAS THE CARRIER OF YELLOW FEVER. SHE WAS BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO ON JUNE 4, 1901 AND CONTRACTED A SLIGHT CASE

VOICE: OF THE DISEASE FROM WHICH SHE QUICKLY RECOVERED. SHE
(CONT'D) VOLUNTEERED TO BE BITTEN AGAIN ON AUGUST 14, CONTRACTING A
SEVERE CASE OF THE DISEASE, FROM WHICH SHE DIED, TEN DAYS
LATER. MISS MAASS WAS THE ONLY AMERICAN AND THE ONLY WOMAN
TO DIE FROM THE EXPERIMENTS, WHICH LED TO THE VIRTUAL
ELIMINATION OF THE DISEASE.

THE NEWARK GERMAN HOSPITAL WAS LATER NAMED THE LUTHERAN
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND IN 1952 THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO THE
CLARA MAASS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

THE CLARA MAASS STAMP WAS DESIGNED BY PAUL CALLE OF STAMFORD,
CONN., WHO ALSO DESIGNED, AMONG OTHERS, THE FIRST MAN ON THE
MOON STAMP OF 1969. THE DESIGN IS BASED ON A PORTRAIT OF
MISS MAASS WHICH HANGS IN THE MAASS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. THE
DESIGN SHOWS MISS MAASS IN A LEFT PROFILE AGAINST A BLUE
BACKGROUND. SHE IS WEARING THE NURSING CAP AND PIN OF THE
NEWARK GERMAN HOSPITAL. AT THE UPPER RIGHT APPEARS "USA
13 CENTS" AND ACROSS THE BOTTOM "CLARA MAASS." BENEATH
THAT IS THE LINE "SHE GAVE HER LIFE."

THE STAMP IS A SEMI-JUMBO MEASURING 31.1 BY 39.6 MM.
THE STAMPS ARE BEING PRINTED ON THE SEVEN COLOR GRAVURE
PRESS IN YELLOW, MAGENTA, CYAN, BLACK, BLUE LINE AND BLACK
LINE. THERE ARE 40 STAMPS TO A PANE WITH SIX PLATE NUMBERS.

REQUESTS FOR FIRST DAY COVERS MAY BE SENT, ALONG WITH A
SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AND AN INTERNATIONAL COUPON TO
"CLARA MAASS STAMP, POSTMASTER, BELLEVILLE, N.J., U.S.A.

VOICE: 07109. REQUESTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN THE ISSUE
(CONT'D) DATE, AUGUST 18TH.

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE WEEKLY
VOICE OF AMERICA PROGRAM FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS.
THIS WEEK OUR SUBJECT WAS A NEW UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMP
...NEXT WEEK, IT MAY BE COINS OR GLASS OR TRUCKS OR TIEPINS,
SO JOIN US AGAIN FOR ANOTHER COLLECTOR'S CORNER.

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BIL/CAK